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Christian

Communicators

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March 17, 2017

*Ex Parte*

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations, MB Docket No. 12-106**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In a meeting on March 15, 2017, Aaron Mercer, Vice President of Government Relations for the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), discussed the FCC proceeding on "Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations" (MB Docket No. 12-106) with Matthew Berry, Chief of Staff to the Chairman, Alison Nemeth, Acting Media Advisor to the Chairman, and Nathan Leamer, Policy Advisor to the Chairman.

NRB noted its support for the recommendation of the agency's 2011 Information Needs of Communities Report (INC Report) that any NCE station that does not receive Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) grants may qualify to participate in a new rule permitting on-air fundraising for third-party non-profit organizations with up to 1% of the station's annual on-air time. NRB expressed its belief that the concept at the heart of this proceeding will serve the public interest by educating listeners and viewers and facilitating their charitable desire to aid non-profit groups in meeting critical societal needs through partnerships with broadcasting stations.

NRB referenced its Comments and Reply Comments filed with the Commission on July 23, 2012 and August 21, 2012 respectively that discuss points of interest raised in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. In particular, as addressed in detail in its Comment (pages 9-12), NRB briefly highlighted the agency's INC Report recommendation, based on concerns expressed by public broadcasters about being put in an awkward position, that a new rule apply only to NCE stations that are not CPB grantees, as well as NRB suggestions, again laid out in detail in the Comment (pages 12-17 and pages 18-27), on limiting the scope of third-party non-profits to 501(c)(3) organizations and considerations for participating stations.

NRB noted that this proceeding, which was initiated by former Chairman Julius Genachowski, is nonpartisan and has waited a number of years for resolution. NRB hopes it will be adopted soon.

Pursuant to Section 1.1200, et seq., of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Aaron Mercer

Aaron Mercer  
Vice President of Government Relations  
National Religious Broadcasters

cc: Mr. Matthew Berry  
Ms. Alison Nemeth  
Mr. Nathan Leamer